

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 05776 01 OF 02 181357Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 NEAE-00 MCE-00 HA-05 CU-04
/103 W

-----035768 181435Z /50

P R 181245Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5861
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE 297
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 5776

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: NOVEMBER 11 - 17

REF: BEIRUT 5634 (DTG 111116Z NOV 77)

1. SUMMARY: THIS WEEK, ISRAEL AGAIN CARRIED OUT AIR
STRIKES IN SOUTH LEBANON. A USAF C-141 MADE THE FIRST
DELIVERY OF MATERIAL PURCHASED UNDER THE FMS MILITARY CREDIT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 05776 01 OF 02 181357Z

AGREEMENT FOR FY 1977. GOL SAID IT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO
BRING ISRAELI ATTACKS BEFORE THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL. FOREIGN
MINISTER BOUTROS CLASHED WITH THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE AT THE
ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN TUNIS. THE ISLAMIC
GROUP APPARENTLY ADOPTED A TOUGHER STAND ON PALESTINIAN
WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH LEBANON. GOL OFFICIALS REFRAINED
FROM PUBLIC COMMENT ON PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S STATEMENT

THAT ISRAEL WOULD WELCOME VISITS BY ARAB LEADERS. THE ADF BANNED STREET DEMONSTRATIONS. SYRIAN BRIGADIER MOHAMED AL KHOLI VISITED LEBANON. END SUMMARY.

2. MORE FIGHTING AND ISRAELI AIR RAIDS IN SOUTH LEBANON. FIGHTING BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND CHRISTIANS CONTINUED IN SOUTH LEBANON. ON NOVEMBER 11, ACCORDING TO BEIRUT PRESS REPORTS, ISRAEL PLANES STRUCK AT SOUTH LEBANON, THIS TIME AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF TYRE AND RAS AL-AIN (ABOUT FIVE KILOMETERS SOUTH OF TYRE). BEIRUT NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THAT THE ISRAELIS SAID THE ATTACKS WERE PROMPTED BY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE ON ISRAELI RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS. ON NOVEMBER 14, THE BEIRUT PRESS INTERPRETED AS A THREAT AN ISRAELI STATEMENT, BROADCAST THE PREVIOUS DAY, THAT ISRAEL WOULD TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO PROTECT ITS CITIZENS IF THERE WERE FURTHER ATTACKS ON ISRAELI TERRITORY. ON NOVEMBER 16, RADIO MONTE CARLO AND THE BBC CARRIED REPORTS THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD SHELLED NABATIYAH. THE PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY (WAFA) BLAMED "ISRAELIS/ ISOLATIONISTS." THE ISRAELIS CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT THEY HAD SHELLED THE TOWN, AND CHRISTIAN MILITIA IN LEBANON MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE.

3. FIRST FMS ARMY DELIVERY. ON NOVEMBER 17, A USAF C-141 CARRYING RIFLES, AMMUNITION AND UNIFORMS ARRIVED IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 05776 01 OF 02 181357Z

BEIRUT WITH THE FIRST INCREMENT OF MATERIAL PURCHASED UNDER THE \$25 MILLION MILITARY CREDIT AGREEMENT FOR FY-1977. ARMY COMMANDER VICTOR KHOURY WAS ON HAND TO WELCOME THE DELIVERY, WHICH RECEIVED EXTENSIVE PRESS AND TV COVERAGE.

4. GOL SENDS MEMORANDUM TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL. ON NOVEMBER 11 FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE GOL HAD SENT THE UN A MEMORANDUM SAYING THAT THE GOL "RESERVES TO ITSELF THE RIGHT TO CALL FOR A UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME IF IT DEEMS IT NECESSARY." THE MEMORANDUM CITED THE ISRAELI SINKING OF A LEBANESE SHIP IN LEBANESE TERRITORIAL WATERS ON NOVEMBER 5, AS WELL AS ISRAELI SHELLING AND AIR RAIDS ON LEBANESE TERRITORY. DESPITE THE ANNOUNCEMENT, THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT THAT LEBANON WILL ACTUALLY REQUEST A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING.

5. BOUTROS GOES TO TUNIS. FOREIGN MINISTER FUAD BOUTROS ATTENDED THE ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN TUNIS FROM NOVEMBER 12-14, WHERE HE CLASHED WITH THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE, ABDEL MOHSIN, ACCORDING TO THE BEIRUT

DAILY AN-NAHAR. BOUTROS ACCUSED THE PALESTINIANS OF BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ESCALATION OF THE FIGHTING IN SOUTH LEBANON, WHILE MOHSIN RETORTED THAT THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE WANTED TO HELP RE-ESTABLISH THE GOL'S AUTHORITY OVER ALL OF LEBANON, THE PAPER SAID. IN A STATEMENT READ AFTER THE CONFERENCE, AN-NAHAR REPORTED, AN ARAB LEAGUE SPOKESMAN SAID THE MINISTERS HAD EMPHASIZED THE NECESSITY OF IMPLEMENTING THE CAIRO AGREEMENT AND "ALL COMPLIMENTARY PROTOCOLS AND PROGRAMS" AIMED AT ACHIEVING A SETTLEMENT IN SOUTH LEBANON.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 05776 02 OF 02 181420Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 NEAE-00 MCE-00 HA-05 CU-04
/103 W

-----036129 181435Z /50

P R 181245Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5862

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE 298

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 5776

6. ISLAMIC GROUP TOUGHEN STAND ON SOUTH. MEMBERS OF THE CONSERVATIVE SUNNI ISLAMIC GROUP AND OF THE SHI'A "NATIONAL FRONT FOR SAFEGUARDING THE SOUTH" MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE ON NOVEMBER 14. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCES, THE

DISCUSSIONS WERE "VERY FRANK," AND THE ISLAMIC GROUP TOOK A TOUGHER LINE THAN BEFORE ON THE NEED FOR PALESTINIAN WITHDRAWALS FROM THE SOUTH UNDER PHASE III OF THE SHTAURA AGREEMENT. THE GROUP AND THE FRONT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 05776 02 OF 02 181420Z

APPOINTED SAEB SALAM, TAKIEDDIN SOLH, MOHAMMED AL FADEL, AND HASSAN AL HUSSEINI TO CONTACT PRESIDENT SARKIS AND TO MEET AGAIN WITH THE PALESTINIANS TO FIND A SOLUTION FOR THE SOUTH.

7. GOL WITHHOLDS COMMENT ON VISITS TO ISRAEL. GOL OFFICIALS DID NOT COMMENT PUBLICLY ON PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S STATEMENT THAT ISRAEL WOULD WELCOME A VISIT BY LEBANESE PRESIDENT ELIAS SARKIS (AS WELL AS SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFIZ AL-ASSAD, AND JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN). THE LEBANESE SEEMED PERPLEXED ABOUT SADAT'S POSSIBLE VISIT TO ISRAEL AND GOL OFFICIALS EXPRESSED NO OPINION IN PUBLIC. IN TWO OF THE FEW PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE ISSUE, PHALANGE LEADER PIERRE GEMAYEL SAID HE WAS "OPTIMISTIC" THAT THE PLANNED MEETING WOULD BE FRUITFUL, BUT NLP CHIEF CAMILLE CHAMOUN "VERY MUCH" DOUBTED THAT THE VISIT WOULD LEAD TO PEACE.

8. MOHAMED AL KHOLI VISITS LEBANON. SYRIAN BRIGADIER MOHAMED AL KHOLI, VISITED LEBANON ON NOVEMBER 12-13. ACCORDING TO AN EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE, NLP LEADER CAMILLE CHAMOUN STATED PRIVATELY THAT KHOLI HAD COME TO CHECK OUT RUMORS THAT UNITED MILITARY COMMAND LEADER BACHIR GEMAYEL HAD PREPARED A PLAN FOR ARMED ATTACKS AGAINST SYRIAN FORCES IN LEBANON. CHAMOUN REPORTEDLY TOLD KHOLI THAT THE RUMORS HAD BEEN PLANTED BY THE PALESTINIANS AND THAT THERE WAS NO SUCH PLAN. CHAMOUN ADDED THAT HE IS THE LEADER OF THE CHRISTIAN LEBANESE FRONT AND NOTHING WOULD HAPPEN WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE AND CONSENT.

9. ADF BANS DEMONSTRATIONS. THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCES (ADF) ON NOVEMBER 14 BANNED "UNLICENSED MASS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 05776 02 OF 02 181420Z

DEMONSTRATIONS AND POPULAR AND STUDENT MARCHES NO MATTER WHAT THE REASON." THE ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWED A NUMBER OF NON-VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS, NONE EXCEEDING ABOUT 200 PEOPLE, IN PRECEEDING DAYS. LED BY PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE LEFTISTS, THE DEMONSTRATIONS CONDEMNED ISRAELI

AIR RAIDS IN SOUTH LEBANON, SUPPORTED THE PALESTINIAN
RESISTANCE, AND CRITICIZED THE U.S. (SEE BEIRUT 5694).
PARKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOMBING, POLITICAL SITUATION, AIR EXERCISES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT05776
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770428-0228
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771144/aaaablft.tel
Line Count: 227
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2a454117-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BEIRUT 5634
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 539686
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION: NOVEMBER 11 - 17
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2a454117-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009